

• Abroad •

Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. To the surprise of many observers, the Federation of Malaya is manifesting the firmest and most dynamic foreign policy of any non-Communist Asian nation. In spite of the fact that she is exposed to her giant northern neighbor both geographically (by physical contiguity) and socially (by the presence of a large Chinese minority), she has joined with Ireland to force the Tibet issue before the United Nations Assembly. Her spokesmen publicly denounce Chinese subversion directed against herself, Thailand, and South Vietnam, and sarcastically comment on "lip-service to the so-called principle of peaceful coexistence." Dr. Ismail, the Minister for External Affairs, calls Chinese international methods "a new and more devilish and more sinister form of colonialism."

London, England. The heavy Labor Party defeat and the particularly poor showing of Labor among the youth have brought lamentation to the left-wing operators on the Continent (Pietro Nenni, Pierre Mendès-France, Eric Ollenhauer. . .) who last winter believed that the years 1959-61 were going to bring an all-European Left comeback in the British, Italian and German general elections. As the British vote turned out, it continued the retreat of the European Left that has proceeded without interruption since 1947. The Left has held its own only in Norway and Sweden; everywhere else it has steadily lost ground to the Center or the Right. The Communists have more than shared in this electoral slump. In Britain a fortnight ago, seventeen of the eighteen Communist candidates "lost their deposit" (that is, forfeited a bond by failing to get an eighth of the total vote cast in their districts).

Leipzig, East Germany. Communist East Germany has begun a major new psychological offensive aimed at the rapidly growing West German TV audience. (There are now about three million TV sets in West Germany.) A chain of powerful TV transmitting stations has been constructed along the boundary with West Germany, from the Baltic to the Czech border. These are able to reach as far as the Ruhr, and to saturate more than half of West Germany. A high power transmitter, just opened in Leipzig, is designed to blanket reception from West Germany by the heavily populated Leipzig region. As partial counter, Bonn is planning a new transmitter, with a 600 foot mast, for the British sector of Berlin.

Saigon, South Vietnam. The internal political development of South Vietnam is providing one more example (cf. Burma, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia, Ghana, etc.) of the impossibility of imposing Western-style parliamentary government on nations where the necessary economic, cultural and social conditions for genuine democracy do not exist. President Ngo Dinh Diem's newly elected National Assembly is merely a facade for his authoritarian rule. Under the rigged election pro-

cedures, only two members are opponents of his policies; and neither of the two was permitted to take his seat. One of them, Phan Quang Dan, was arrested when he tried to do so. Oddly enough, Dr. Dan's history is closely similar to Diem's—including exile in the United States and close relation with important Americans—and a slightly different turn of the wheel might have brought him forward in Diem's place. Some old Asian hands are worried that the loyal opposition, deprived of a chance to function politically, may be pushed into links with the Communists whose activities, supported by North Vietnam, have been stepped up in the southern district.



Carrefour

At the UN

"I want to tell Khrushchev that the people of the moon accept his disarmament plan."

Cairo, U. A. R. The Nasser government finds the gravest import in the fierce denunciation of Cairo by Khaled Bagdash, leader of the now illegal Syrian Communist Party, that was broadcast from Peiping during the celebration of the tenth anniversary of Red China. The Bagdash broadcast is the latest in a long series of incidents proving Peiping's active intervention in Arab and North African affairs. Indeed, the hard cadres of the FLN in Algeria are prisoners and deserters from the French forces in Indochina, who were given special training by the Vietminh and the Chinese and then sent into Algeria. In Baghdad, the Chinese are playing a considerable role in the local Iraq developments, and at the same time using Iraq as a transshipment point for arms to Algeria, which Chinese geopoliticians see as the base for the progressive Communization of north and then central Africa. A revealing side-effect of Cairo's growing worry is a recent decision to send a group of several hundred students to the United States instead of Moscow.

London, England. From the remarks of Mr. H. F. Oppenheimer, the diamond king, to the annual meeting of his company (De Beers Consolidated Mines): "When large-scale industrial use of diamonds had just begun, we were inclined, not unnaturally, to think it would bring greater stability to the diamond trade, because it seemed that a trade supplying an industrial necessity must be more stable than one supplying just a luxury. We were wrong. That part of the trade based on human vanity is a great deal more stable than the part dependent upon industrial production. If you want an industry really to be stable, surely human vanity must be the best foundation anyone could find."

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